

CLOSED,TYPE I-FOIA

**U.S. District Court**  
**District of Columbia (Washington, DC)**  
**CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:15-cv-00684-BAH**

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. v. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Assigned to: Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell  
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 05/05/2015  
Date Terminated: 02/04/2019  
Jury Demand: None  
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of Information Act  
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

**Plaintiff****JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.**

represented by **James F. Peterson**  
JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.  
425 Third Street, SW  
Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20024  
(202) 646-5172  
Fax: (202) 646-5199  
Email: [jpeterson@judicialwatch.org](mailto:jpeterson@judicialwatch.org)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Michael Bekesha**  
JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.  
425 Third Street, SW  
Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20024  
(202) 646-5172  
Fax: (202) 646-5199  
Email: [mbekesha@judicialwatch.org](mailto:mbekesha@judicialwatch.org)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

V.

**Defendant**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
*The Executive Office, Office of the Legal Adviser*

represented by **Caroline J. Anderson**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530  
(202) 353-6417  
Fax: (202) 616-2645  
Email: [caroline.j.anderson@usdoj.gov](mailto:caroline.j.anderson@usdoj.gov)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**James O. Bickford**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch  
1100 L Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20530  
(202) 305-7632  
Fax: (202) 616-8470  
Email: [james.bickford@usdoj.gov](mailto:james.bickford@usdoj.gov)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

| Date Filed | # | Docket Text |
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| 05/05/2015 | <u>1</u>  | COMPLAINT against U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE ( Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number 0090-4081001) filed by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>2</u> Summons US Attorney for DC, # <u>3</u> Summons US Attorney General, # <u>4</u> Summons US State Department)(Bekesha, Michael) (Entered: 05/05/2015)   |
| 05/05/2015 | <u>2</u>  | LCvR 7.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. (Bekesha, Michael) (Entered: 05/05/2015)   |
| 05/05/2015 |           | Case Assigned to Judge Beryl A. Howell. (md, ) (Entered: 05/06/2015)  |
| 05/06/2015 | <u>3</u>  | SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Notice of Consent) (md, ) (Entered: 05/06/2015)  |
| 05/06/2015 | <u>4</u>  | STANDING ORDER. Signed by Judge Beryl A. Howell on May 6, 2015. (lcbah2) (Entered: 05/06/2015)  |
| 05/12/2015 | <u>5</u>  | RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 5/11/2015. ( Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 6/10/2015.), RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 05/11/2015., RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE served on 5/11/2015 (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration of David Rothstein)(Bekesha, Michael) (Entered: 05/12/2015)  |
| 06/10/2015 | <u>6</u>  | ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A)(Anderson, Caroline) (Entered: 06/10/2015)  |
| 06/24/2015 | <u>7</u>  | STATUS REPORT ( <i>Joint</i> ) by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.. (Bekesha, Michael) (Entered: 06/24/2015)  |
| 06/25/2015 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) ISSUING the following SCHEDULING ORDER to control the timing of proceedings in this matter, pursuant to the parties' <u>7</u> Joint Status Report and upon consideration of the plaintiff's request for limited discovery in the form of responses to various questions: the defendant shall make a rolling production of documents to the plaintiff beginning on August 31, 2015 and continuing every sixty days thereafter until January 29, 2016. The parties shall, by March 1, 2016, file a joint status report advising the Court whether the parties have resolved all disputes over the defendant's response to the plaintiff's FOIA request or whether dispositive motions are anticipated. The defendant shall file its motion for summary judgment, if any, by April 1, 2016. The plaintiff shall file its opposition and cross-motion for summary judgment, if any, by May 2, 2016. The defendant shall file its reply and opposition by June 2, 2016. The plaintiff shall file its reply by June 16, 2016. Signed by Judge Beryl A. Howell on June 25, 2015. (lcbah2) (Entered: 06/25/2015) |
| 06/26/2015 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Defendant's rolling production of documents to plaintiff to begin on 8/31/2015 and continue every sixty days until 1/29/2016; Joint Status Report due by 3/1/2016; Summary Judgment motion due by 4/1/2016; Cross-Motion and Opposition to Motion for Summary Judgment due by 5/2/2016; Opposition to Cross-Motion and Reply to Opposition to Motion for Summary Judgment due by 6/2/2016; Reply to Opposition to Cross Motion due by 6/16/2016. (tg) (Entered: 06/26/2015)  |
| 09/03/2015 | <u>8</u>  | NOTICE by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Motion to Designate Coordinating Judge)(Anderson, Caroline) (Entered: 09/03/2015)   |
| 09/03/2015 | <u>9</u>  | MOTION to Stay <i>Pending Resolution of its Motion for Designation of Coordinating Judge</i> by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Anderson, Caroline) (Entered: 09/03/2015)   |
| 09/04/2015 | <u>10</u> | NOTICE by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Order)(Anderson, Caroline) (Entered: 09/04/2015)  |
| 09/21/2015 | <u>11</u> | RESPONSE re <u>9</u> MOTION to Stay <i>Pending Resolution of its Motion for Designation of Coordinating Judge</i> filed by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Bekesha, Michael) (Entered: 09/21/2015)   |

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| 10/01/2015 | <u>12</u> | REPLY to opposition to motion re <u>2</u> MOTION to Stay <i>Pending Resolution of its Motion for Designation of Coordinating Judge</i> filed by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Anderson, Caroline) (Entered: 10/01/2015)  |
| 10/15/2015 | <u>13</u> | NOTICE of Denial of State Department's Motion for Designation of Coordinating Judge by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. (Bekesha, Michael) (Entered: 10/15/2015)  |
| 10/16/2015 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) DENYING AS MOOT the defendant's <u>2</u> Motion to Stay Pending Resolution of Its Motion for Designation of Coordinating Judge, as the defendant's Motion for Designation of Coordinating Judge has been denied. <i>See</i> Order, <i>In re: U.S. Department of State FOIA Litigation Regarding Emails of Certain Former Officials</i> , No. 15-mc-1188 (D.D.C. Oct. 8, 2015). Signed by Judge Beryl A. Howell on October 16, 2015. (lcbah2) (Entered: 10/16/2015)   |
| 01/11/2016 | <u>14</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Anderson, Caroline) (Entered: 01/11/2016)   |
| 01/11/2016 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) ISSUING, upon consideration of the parties' <u>14</u> Joint Status Report, the following SCHEDULING ORDER to control the timing of further proceedings: The defendant shall make a rolling production of responsive, non-exempt documents, excluding news clippings/briefings, to the plaintiff beginning on March 1, 2016, and continuing every thirty days thereafter until April 30, 2017, after review of a minimum of 400 pages per month. The parties shall, by May 30, 2016, and every ninety days thereafter, submit to the Court a joint status report advising the Court of the status of this ongoing production. The parties shall, by March 15, 2017, submit a final joint status report advising the Court whether the parties have resolved all disputes over the defendant's response to the plaintiff's FOIA request or whether dispositive motions are anticipated and, if so, proposing a schedule to govern the submission of dispositive motions. Signed by Judge Beryl A. Howell on January 11, 2016. (lcbah2) (Entered: 01/11/2016) |
| 01/11/2016 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Defendant's rolling production beginning 3/1/2016, and continuing every thirty days thereafter until 4/30/2017; Joint Status Report submission by 5/30/2016, and every ninety days thereafter until 3/15/2017. (tg) (Entered: 01/11/2016)  |
| 05/27/2016 | <u>15</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Anderson, Caroline) (Entered: 05/27/2016)   |
| 08/29/2016 | <u>16</u> | NOTICE of Appearance by James O. Bickford on behalf of U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Bickford, James) (Entered: 08/29/2016)   |
| 08/29/2016 | <u>17</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 08/29/2016)  |
| 11/28/2016 | <u>18</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 11/28/2016)  |
| 03/01/2017 | <u>19</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 03/01/2017)  |
| 03/15/2017 | <u>20</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 03/15/2017)  |
| 03/15/2017 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) ISSUING, upon consideration of the parties' <u>20</u> Joint Status Report, the following SCHEDULING ORDER to control the timing of further proceedings: The parties shall, by May 31, 2017, submit a final joint status report advising the Court whether the parties have resolved all disputes over the defendant's response to the plaintiff's FOIA request or whether dispositive motions are anticipated and, if so, proposing a schedule to govern the submission of dispositive motions. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on March 15, 2017. (lcbah4) (Entered: 03/15/2017)  |
| 03/15/2017 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Final Joint Status Report due by 5/31/2017. (tg) (Entered: 03/15/2017)   |
| 04/24/2017 | <u>21</u> | Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>Complete Production and File Status Report</i> by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Bickford, James) (Entered: 04/24/2017)   |

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| 04/25/2017 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) GRANTING the defendant's <u>21</u> Consent Motion for Extension of Time. Accordingly, the defendant is ORDERED to make its final production of nonexempt and responsive documents no later than May 31, 2017. The parties are FURTHER ORDERED to file a joint status report no later than June 30, 2017, informing the Court (1) whether any additional searches will be performed in connection with this case and, if not, (2) whether dispositive motions will be required and proposing a briefing schedule if necessary. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on April 25, 2017. (lcbah4) (Entered: 04/25/2017) |
| 04/26/2017 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Defendant's final production of nonexempt and responsive documents due by 5/31/2017; Joint Status Report due by 6/30/2017. (tg) (Entered: 04/26/2017)   |
| 06/30/2017 | <u>22</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 06/30/2017)   |
| 07/03/2017 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) DIRECTING, upon consideration of the parties' <u>22</u> Joint Status Report, the parties to file, by July 31, 2017, a further Joint Status Report proposing a schedule to govern future proceedings in this matter. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on July 3, 2017. (lcbah4) (Entered: 07/03/2017)   |
| 07/05/2017 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 7/31/2017. (tg) (Entered: 07/05/2017)  |
| 07/31/2017 | <u>23</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 07/31/2017)   |
| 08/01/2017 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) DIRECTING, upon consideration of the parties' <u>23</u> Joint Status Report, the parties to file, by October 6, 2017, a further Joint Status Report proposing a schedule to govern future proceedings in this matter. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on August 1, 2017. (lcbah4) (Entered: 08/01/2017)   |
| 08/01/2017 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 10/6/2017. (tg) (Entered: 08/01/2017)  |
| 10/06/2017 | <u>24</u> | Joint MOTION for Extension of Time to File <i>Joint Status Report</i> by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Bickford, James) (Entered: 10/06/2017)  |
| 10/06/2017 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) GRANTING the parties' <u>24</u> Joint Motion for Extension of Time. Accordingly, the parties shall, by October 11, 2017, file a joint status report proposing a schedule to govern future proceedings in this matter. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on October 6, 2017. (lcbah4) (Entered: 10/06/2017)  |
| 10/10/2017 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 10/11/2017. (tg) (Entered: 10/10/2017)   |
| 10/11/2017 | <u>25</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 10/11/2017)   |
| 11/13/2017 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) DIRECTING, upon consideration of the parties' <u>25</u> Joint Status Report, the parties to file, by December 31, 2017, a further Joint Status Report proposing a schedule to govern future proceedings in this matter. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on November 13, 2017. (lcbah4) (Entered: 11/13/2017)  |
| 11/13/2017 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 12/31/2017. (tg) (Entered: 11/13/2017)   |
| 12/29/2017 | <u>26</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 12/29/2017)   |
| 01/02/2018 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) DIRECTING, upon consideration of the parties' <u>26</u> Joint Status Report, the parties to file, by January 31, 2018, a further Joint Status Report proposing a schedule to govern future proceedings in this matter. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on January 2, 2018. (lcbah4) (Entered: 01/02/2018)   |
| 01/02/2018 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 1/31/2018. (hmc) (Entered: 01/02/2018)   |
| 01/31/2018 | <u>27</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 01/31/2018)   |



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| 02/01/2018 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) DIRECTING, upon consideration of the parties' <u>27</u> Joint Status Report, the parties to file, by February 28, 2018, a further Joint Status Report proposing a schedule to govern future proceedings in this matter. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on February 1, 2018. (lcbah4) (Entered: 02/01/2018)   |
| 02/01/2018 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 2/28/2018. (tg) (Entered: 02/01/2018)  |
| 02/28/2018 | <u>28</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 02/28/2018)   |
| 03/01/2018 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) ISSUING, upon consideration of the parties' <u>28</u> Joint Status Report, the following SCHEDULING ORDER to control further proceedings: the government shall, by April 27, 2018, file any motion for summary judgment. The plaintiff shall, by May 25, 2018, file any opposition to the government's motion and any cross-motion for summary judgment. The government shall, by June 27, 2018, file any reply to its motion and any opposition to the plaintiff's cross-motion. The plaintiff shall, by July 13, 2018, file any reply to its cross-motion. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on March 1, 2018. (lcbah4) (Entered: 03/01/2018) |
| 03/02/2018 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Government's motion for summary judgment due by 4/27/2018. Plaintiff's opposition to the government's motion for summary judgment and cross-motion due by 5/25/2018. Government's reply in support of its motion for summary judgment and opposition to plaintiff's cross-motion due by 6/27/2018. Plaintiff's reply in support of its cross-motion due by 7/13/2018. (hmc) (Entered: 03/02/2018)   |
| 04/27/2018 | <u>29</u> | MOTION for Summary Judgment by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Memorandum in Support, # <u>2</u> Statement of Facts, # <u>3</u> Declaration, # <u>4</u> Exhibit, # <u>5</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Bickford, James) (Entered: 04/27/2018)   |
| 05/23/2018 | <u>30</u> | Memorandum in opposition to re <u>29</u> MOTION for Summary Judgment filed by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Bekesha, Michael) (Entered: 05/23/2018)   |
| 05/23/2018 | <u>31</u> | Cross MOTION for Summary Judgment by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Bekesha, Michael) (Entered: 05/23/2018)   |
| 06/27/2018 | <u>32</u> | REPLY to opposition to motion re <u>29</u> MOTION for Summary Judgment filed by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration, # <u>2</u> Statement of Facts)(Bickford, James) (Entered: 06/27/2018)  |
| 06/27/2018 | <u>33</u> | Memorandum in opposition to re <u>31</u> Cross MOTION for Summary Judgment filed by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (See docket entry <u>32</u> to view document)(zrdj) (Entered: 06/29/2018)  |
| 07/13/2018 | <u>34</u> | NOTICE by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. re <u>31</u> Cross MOTION for Summary Judgment , <u>33</u> Memorandum in Opposition (Bekesha, Michael) (Entered: 07/13/2018)  |
| 08/15/2018 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) DIRECTING, upon consideration of the plaintiff's representation in its <u>34</u> Notice Concerning Its Reply in Support of Its Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment ("Notice") that "Plaintiff no longer challenges the adequacy of the search" and that "[t]he only remaining issue is an award of attorneys' fees and other litigation costs," Notice at 1, the parties to file, by August 31, 2018, a joint status report proposing a schedule to govern further proceedings unless a stipulation of dismissal has been entered by that date. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on August 15, 2018. (lcbah4) (Entered: 08/15/2018)              |
| 08/16/2018 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 8/31/2018. (tg) (Entered: 08/16/2018)  |
| 08/31/2018 | <u>35</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 08/31/2018)   |
| 09/01/2018 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) DIRECTING, upon consideration of the parties' <u>35</u> Joint Status Report, the parties to file, by September 27, 2018, a further joint status report proposing a schedule to govern further proceedings unless a stipulation of dismissal has been filed by that date. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on September 1, 2018. (lcbah4) (Entered: 09/01/2018)   |

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| 09/04/2018 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 9/27/2018. (tg) (Entered: 09/04/2018)  |
| 09/27/2018 | <u>36</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.. (Bekesha, Michael) (Entered: 09/27/2018)  |
| 09/27/2018 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) DIRECTING, upon consideration of the parties' <u>36</u> Joint Status Report, the parties to file, by October 26, 2018, a further joint status report proposing a schedule to govern further proceedings unless a stipulation of dismissal has been filed by that date. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on September 27, 2018. (lcbah4) (Entered: 09/27/2018)  |
| 09/28/2018 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 10/26/2018. (tg) (Entered: 09/28/2018)   |
| 10/29/2018 | <u>37</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 10/29/2018)   |
| 10/29/2018 | <u>38</u> | NOTICE of Appearance by James F. Peterson on behalf of JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. (Peterson, James) (Entered: 10/29/2018)  |
| 10/29/2018 | <u>39</u> | Joint MOTION for Extension of Time to File <i>Joint Status Report Nunc Pro Tunc</i> by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Bickford, James) (Entered: 10/29/2018)  |
| 10/29/2018 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) GRANTING, <i>nunc pro tunc</i> , the parties' <u>39</u> Joint Motion for Extension of Time. The parties' <u>37</u> Joint Status Report of October 29, 2018 is deemed timely filed. It is further ordered that the parties are DIRECTED to file, by November 30, 2018, a further joint status report proposing a schedule to govern further proceedings unless a stipulation of dismissal has been filed by that date. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on October 29, 2018. (lcbah4) (Entered: 10/29/2018) |
| 10/29/2018 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 11/30/2018. (tg) (Entered: 10/29/2018)   |
| 11/30/2018 | <u>40</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 11/30/2018)   |
| 12/03/2018 |           | VACATED PURSUANT TO MINUTE ORDER FILED 12/26/2018.....MINUTE ORDER (paperless) DIRECTING, upon consideration of the parties' <u>40</u> Joint Status Report, the parties to file, by January 4, 2019, a further joint status report proposing a schedule to govern further proceedings unless a stipulation of dismissal has been filed by that date. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on December 3, 2018. (lcbah4) Modified on 12/28/2018 (zrdj). (Entered: 12/03/2018)  |
| 12/03/2018 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 1/4/2019. (tg) (Entered: 12/03/2018)   |
| 12/26/2018 | <u>41</u> | Unopposed MOTION to Stay by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Bickford, James) (Entered: 12/26/2018)   |
| 12/26/2018 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) VACATING the Court's December 3, 2018 Scheduling Order and ORDERING the parties to file, no later than five business days after counsel for the defendant may again report for duty, a further joint status report proposing a schedule to govern further proceedings unless a stipulation of dismissal has been filed by that date. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on December 26, 2018. (lcbah1) (Entered: 12/26/2018)   |
| 01/28/2019 | <u>42</u> | NOTICE of Restoration of Appropriations by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Bickford, James) (Entered: 01/28/2019)  |
| 02/01/2019 | <u>43</u> | STIPULATION of Dismissal <i>with prejudice</i> by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.. (Bekesha, Michael) (Entered: 02/01/2019)   |
| 02/04/2019 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) DISMISSING this case, with prejudice, in light of the parties' <u>43</u> Joint Stipulation of Dismissal. The Clerk of the Court is directed to close this case. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on February 4, 2019. (lcbah4) (Entered: 02/04/2019)   |